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**“Stopping the Methamphetamine Epidemic:
Lessons from the Pacific Northwest”**

**Chuck Karl, Director
Oregon HIDTA Program**

Written Statement for the Record

Prepared for the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources

Chairman Souder, distinguished members of this committee, and all concerned citizens of Oregon, and these United States, my name is Charles J. Karl, and I have been the Director of the Oregon High Intensity Drug Trafficking Program (HIDTA) since October 18th, 1999, almost exactly 6 years.

Prior to becoming the HIDTA Director for Oregon, I spent 26 years with the Portland, Oregon Police Bureau with most of those years directly or indirectly involved with the problem of drug enforcement and drug abuse. I retired from the Portland Police Bureau in 1995 as the Deputy Police Chief of the Investigations Branch of the bureau.

I would like to begin my testimony by expressing my sincere appreciation for this committee's efforts to determine the accurate scope of the methamphetamine threat and epidemic in the Pacific Northwest as well as the rest of our country and to seek out solutions to this most serious problem.

The methamphetamine threat to Oregon and the rest of the nation is clearly a critical threat to children, families, the natural environment, government services, the business community, and neighborhood livability.

The Oregon Experience

Unlike many states east of the Rocky Mountains, Oregon has had a methamphetamine problem for many years. When I first became involved with direct drug investigations and enforcement in 1982, methamphetamine was the drug of choice for primarily outlaw motorcycle gangs such as the Gypsy Jokers, the Brothers Speed, the Hells Angels, and others.

In the early 1980's, a large wave of illegal drugs came into Oregon that clearly represented a new and seriously dangerous threat to our communities. These two drugs were black tar heroin from Guatemala and Mexico, and crack cocaine (a stimulant similar to methamphetamine) from South America via Mexico. The overdose death rate from heroin rose rapidly as the heroin purity escalated and crack cocaine quickly addicted many in the inner city as it provided an exceptionally high euphoria while being smoked. Smoked crack cocaine is said to be much more addictive than powder cocaine which is usually snorted or injected. Additionally, during this time, AIDS became a serious threat from the IV use of heroin, cocaine, and other drugs. The less

dangerous method of smoking these drugs then became more common and users found it to be safer and as good, or better, a method of ingestion than IV use.

Initially the black tar heroin was smuggled into Oregon by Mexican drug trafficking organizations while powder cocaine and crack cocaine were smuggled into Oregon by both Mexican drug trafficking groups and smaller Caucasian and black groups. These drugs as well as marijuana were the greatest money makers and the most problematic for community safety and livability at the time.

In the late 1980's, it became clear that Mexican drug trafficking groups were nearly exclusively taking over the illegal drug trafficking and distribution of tar heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and even a great deal of the marijuana. Methamphetamine began being used by more and more stimulant abusers since cocaine was expensive and the euphoric high was of shorter duration. At the time, methamphetamine was still, primarily, used by injecting it or snorting it.

During the 1990's, powder methamphetamine became readily available throughout the state and by 2000 surfaced as the most problematic and dangerous illegal drug for Oregon. Methamphetamine labs appeared with much greater frequency and the impact of increased meth addiction became readily visible to treatment providers and law enforcement (Refer to attachment #1 for historical information). The emaciated bodies of meth addicts were very obvious when encountered. Methamphetamine became the poor man's cocaine since it was cheaper, had a longer high, and could be made at home. Also, during the 90's the environmental impact of home labs became obvious with serious contamination of property, increased neglect and abuse of children, movement into rural communities, damage to natural resources, explosions and fires, and serious meth-related person and property crimes as well as an escalation of meth-related identity theft.

During this time in the state of Hawaii, crystal meth, a nearly pure smokeable form of methamphetamine, appeared on the scene and became a huge epidemic and destructive force in the state of Hawaii. Due to meth's addictive power, it became a major economic and community safety problem for Hawaii and both the government and local neighborhoods are still trying to cope with the economic and social devastation.

In Oregon, during the last two years, the available methamphetamine in Oregon has changed from predominantly powder methamphetamine to nearly all pure crystal or ice methamphetamine. In my opinion, and at the risk of being called an alarmist, crystal methamphetamine is the single most damaging drug to come along in my experience. Its initial use is said to provide intense, and unforgettable pleasure, said to be like 20 years of sexual pleasure all at once, which can cause an instant addiction. It is like running your body's pleasure engine at maximum RPMs in the red zone for extended periods of time. This can immediately cause physical, sometimes irreparable damage to the brain and body, and the resulting addiction demands satisfaction before any other activity including family, children, friends, work, and personal hygiene. In short, with a very little amount of methamphetamine abuse, numerous wards of the community are created that may continue to be wards of the community for a lifetime. These include drug affected babies and children, abused and neglected children,

learning disabled children, spouses, family, friends, and the crippled addicts themselves not to mention the often innocent victims of their drug related crimes.

A recent study conducted in Marion County, Oregon during August of this year found that five meth affected babies were born in one week. That is nearly one per day.

Already, Oregon is seeing an extraordinary demand for foster care homes for children removed from methamphetamine addicted households. Treatment providers are clearly challenged to successfully restore methamphetamine addicts to productive lives. Methamphetamine impacted individuals, families, and children are more and more demanding medical and social services that are already in scarce supply or just not available. Ninety percent of women in treatment are involved with meth. Meth addicted moms pose a significant treatment challenge which has many profound and competing issues such as when should children removed from the home be returned, if at all.

Workers and job applicants in Oregon are failing drug tests at a higher rate this year. The Oregon Medical Laboratories, the state's largest drug-testing laboratory, reports a 30 percent increase in the first six months of this year. Marijuana remains the most frequently detected drug, showing up in more than half of all positive tests. However, methamphetamine appears to be the fastest-growing illegal drug of choice among workers.

The drug is clearly moving across our country very rapidly. Drug trafficking groups are spreading the addiction as rapidly as they can in order to create customers and income markets.

In my opinion, Oregon and the nation is looking into the face of another call to action to secure our homeland from those who will poison us with a tasty piece of crystal candy called methamphetamine. These predators are no less than narco-terrorists.

Some Oregon Solutions:

Many solutions need to developed and implemented to mitigate the damage from methamphetamine.

Precursor/Chemical Control and Methamphetamine Legislation

The single most effective solution in Oregon to date to stopping the escalating number of meth labs being discovered by law enforcement has been recent state legislation intended to control the primary precursor chemical ingredient called "ephedrine" or "pseudoephedrine".

During the past several years, and specifically in 2005, the Oregon State Police, the Oregon Department of Justice, the Oregon HIDTA, and many legislators have been extremely successful in sponsoring, or supporting, new methamphetamine and precursor control legislation.

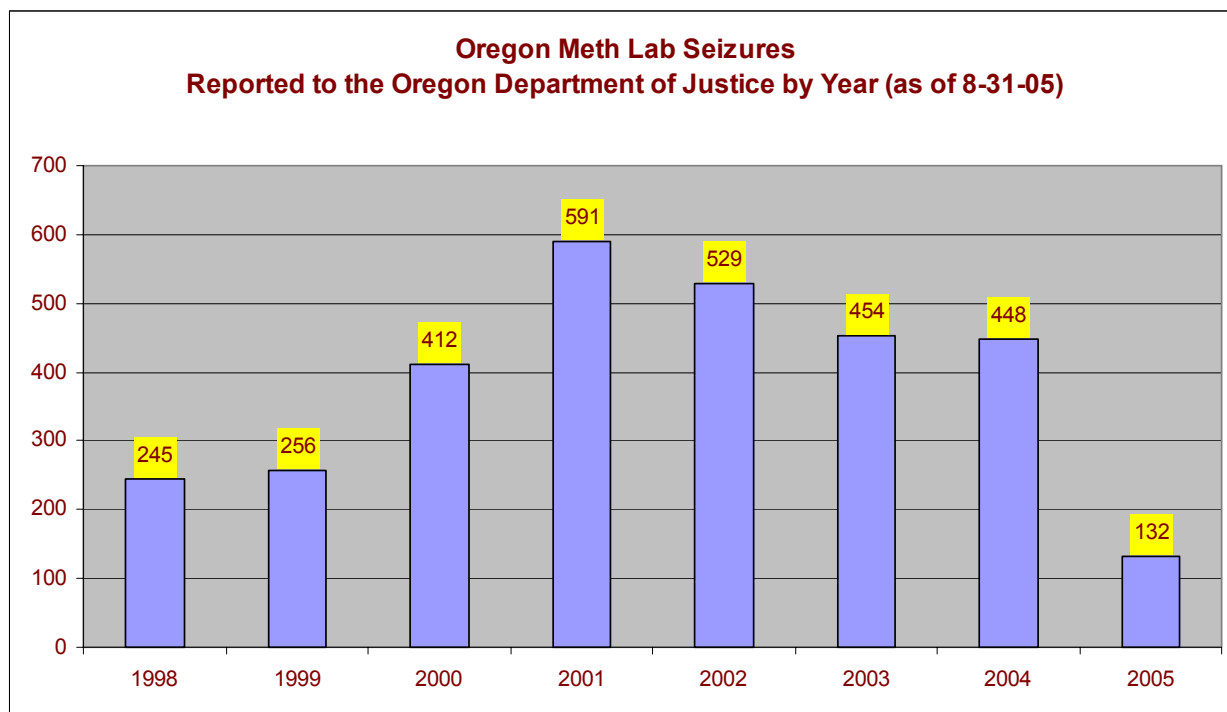
In 2005, the Oregon Pharmacy Board passed two significant regulatory controls. The first required all retail stores to place ephedrine based medicines behind the counter. The second

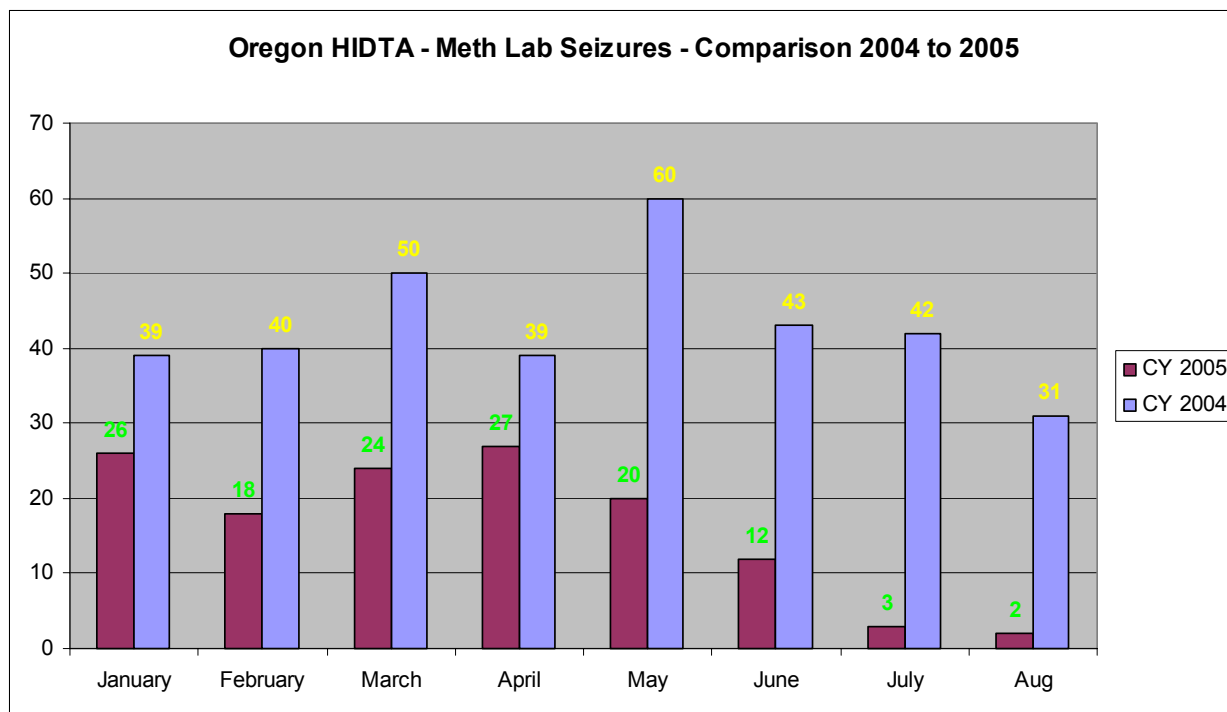
control, stiffened the first as Oregon became the first state in the nation to require a prescription to purchase any medicine with ephedrine, or pseudoephedrine as an ingredient.

On August 16, 2005, the governor of Oregon signed into law anti-methamphetamine legislation that regulates the sale of pseudoephedrine, a key precursor chemical used in methamphetamine production. In the future, Oregon residents will need to obtain a prescription from a doctor to purchase cold and allergy medications that contain pseudoephedrine, ephedrine, or phenylpropanolamine. The prescriptions can be refilled five times in a 6-month period. The law is expected to be fully implemented by July 2006.

Oregon's new prescription requirement is the first of its kind in the United States and is one of the nation's strictest regulations on pseudoephedrine sales to date. Most of the small-scale methamphetamine laboratory operators in Oregon purchase or steal pseudoephedrine from convenience, drug, and grocery stores. Requiring a prescription to purchase pseudoephedrine likely will decrease the number of small-scale methamphetamine laboratories operating in the state. Oregon is one of many states currently requiring that consumers show identification and sign a log when purchasing cold and allergy medications containing pseudoephedrine.

Pseudoephedrine controls became effective in November of 2004 and were strengthened in 2005. The following graphs show dramatic changes in the number of meth labs discovered by law enforcement and reported to the Oregon Department of Justice since November 2004.





As effective as this new Oregon legislation appears to be in reducing the number of meth labs, the availability of crystal methamphetamine has increased. This is due to smuggling activities from large labs in Mexico and Canada. The purity of meth continues to rise (70%-90+ %). One pound of very pure crystal meth can easily be purchased in the Portland metro area for \$9,000. Even though many great results will come from the Oregon legislation that will reduce contamination of natural resources and exposure of children to dangerous chemicals, the availability of methamphetamine will likely not be impacted. Likewise the addictions and social problems, including meth related crime, will likely not diminish. The demand for meth that is a result of powerful meth addictions will not be reduced by reducing the number of local meth labs.

On a very positive note, the reduction in meth labs has had the effect of freeing up law enforcement investigator's time from processing discovered meth labs, which is very time consuming, to conduct investigations against the trafficking organizations that are manufacturing and smuggling the drugs. This is a much a more efficient and effective use of law enforcement resources.

Oregon treatment providers have not experienced a change in methamphetamine case load due to the controls in place with respect to ephedrine and pseudoephedrine.

Oregon Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

The Oregon Alliance for Drug Endangered Children is implementing the National Protocol for the Medical Evaluation of Children Found in Drug Labs.

Chemical Precursor Tracking Program - Methamphetamine Precursor Database

In 2004, the Oregon HIDTA ISC together with the Oregon State Police designed and established a methamphetamine precursor database. This database houses precursor chemical sales records collected by the Oregon National Guard and the Oregon State Police. Once the information is in the database, the records can be queried, and patterns and trends can be identified. Currently there are 17,632 separate precursor chemical sale transactions by 9,890 different people in the database.

This database is available 24/7 to law enforcement investigators and reports, itemized by the county of purchase, are available on the Oregon State Police website.

The Chemical Precursor Tracking Program is a cooperative effort between the Oregon Department of Justice, the Oregon HIDTA program, and the Oregon State Police.

The goal of the program is to track the sales of known methamphetamine precursors (under the auspices of Oregon Revised Statute 475.950 Failure to report precursor substance transaction) to help identify suspicious purchases by suspects attempting to manufacture methamphetamine.

Members of the Oregon National Guard and Oregon State Police collect precursor sales reports from stores that sell known precursors. Once collected, analysts from the Oregon Department of Justice/ Oregon HIDTA criminal intelligence unit (ISC), enter the reports into a database. Once the data is entered, the database can be queried for unusual purchases. For instance: a suspect purchasing one gallon of iodine from four different feed stores in three different counties all on the same day. Another example is a person buying four gallons of iodine using false identification.

To date, the Chemical Precursor Tracking Program has led to the arrest of numerous suspects, and assisted local, state, and federal law enforcement agents investigating drug trafficking organizations that manufacture methamphetamine.

Statewide Clan Lab Database

The Oregon Department of Justice State Intelligence Network (OSIN), an Oregon HIDTA sponsored system, houses a statewide "Clan Lab Database" that is accessible on the Regional Information Sharing System (RISS net). This database contains valuable information about every clan lab seizure in the state and is able to be queried by over 1,200 investigators around the state. The data is also shared via electronic connection with the Western States Information Network (WSIN) that transfers the data to the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC). (Refer to attachment #1).

Oregon State Intelligence Network

The Oregon State Intelligence Network is a secure computer based and web-enabled system for sharing criminal intelligence information between law enforcement agencies on a nation-wide basis. Authorized law enforcement investigators enter information, query the database, and enter

tactical events for officer safety. All of these activities can be done from the field and are monitored by an Oregon Department of Justice Watch Center. The primary purpose of this system is for the deconfliction of cases between agencies in order to achieve maximum impact by leveraging information, effort, and resources.

The Career Offender Methamphetamine Program (COMP)

This program is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Oregon Department of Justice, the Oregon State Police, federal and local law enforcement agencies, and the Oregon HIDTA Program.

This program tracks the most serious methamphetamine manufactures and qualifies the offender for federal prosecution if the offender meets specific "Career Offender" program criteria.

A "Career Offender" under federal law has at least two felony convictions, within the past ten years, that are either drug trafficking offenses or crimes of violence. These crimes include: Manufacture of a Controlled Substance, Conspiracy to Manufacture, Delivery of a Controlled Substance, Conspiracy to Deliver, and Possession with Intent to Distribute.

Once the suspect is entered into the Career Offender Program, the suspect is entered in the state Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) tracking system, and also entered into the Oregon State Intelligence Network (OSIN) for case and subject deconfliction purposes. If the suspect is arrested **anywhere in the United States**, an automated message is received by the Oregon Department of Justice/Oregon HIDTA Watch Center, indicating the suspect has been arrested and has been identified for possible federal prosecution.

The U.S. Attorney's Office is immediately notified of the arrest and can choose to take jurisdiction of the case and potentially prosecute the suspect in the federal court system.

Methamphetamine Initiative Team

In 2005, the Oregon Legislature funded the Methamphetamine Initiative Team. This team, comprised of members from the Oregon State Police, the Oregon Department of Justice, and the Oregon HIDTA ISC, was enacted to target methamphetamine production and distribution in Oregon.

The team has statewide jurisdiction and has two designated Assistant Attorney General prosecutors assigned to the team to assist area district attorney's offices in prosecuting methamphetamine related cases as well as an Oregon Department of Justice Intelligence specialist.

Oregon Meth Watch Program

The Oregon Meth Watch Program is a program sponsored by the Oregon Partnership, the ONDCP 25- Cities Initiative, the Oregon State Police, the Portland Police Bureau, the HIDTA

program, and many community members, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and organizations with the two goals to make our communities safer as follows:

- (1) Discourage large-quantity purchases and thefts of products used to make methamphetamine.
- (2) Enlist local businesses as partners to reduce drug use in our communities.

The Oregon Meth Watch Program, modeled after a similar and successful program used in Kansas, aims to discourage theft and large-quantity purchases of ingredients used to make methamphetamine and raise public awareness of the methamphetamine problem in Oregon.

Through Oregon Meth Watch, retailers are encouraged to:

- Tag the shelves containing products commonly used to manufacture meth to alert and educate customers as to the types of products used in methamphetamine production, and more importantly, deter meth "cooks" and addicts from purchasing or stealing large-quantities of these products at participating stores.
- Feature tear-off sheets at checkout stands to inform customers of the Meth Watch program and the dangers of methamphetamine use in the community.
- Place decals featuring the Oregon Meth Watch logo on their entrances and at check-out stands to further inform customers of their participation in this program and serve as another deterrent to meth users. (Brochures will also be available to customers for more information on the program)

To date, over 600 retailers participate in the program, including lodging facilities and one local disposal company. An informational web site has been established by the Oregon State Police: <http://www.oregonmethwatch.org/>

New laws implemented in Oregon during the last several years:

Failure to report precursor substance transaction: This statute makes it a Class A misdemeanor to fail to report the sales, transfer or furnishing of any precursor chemical.

Failure to report missing precursor substances: This statute makes it a Class A misdemeanor for a licensee or other person regulated by ORS 475.005 to fail to report to law enforcement the theft or loss of any precursor substance.

Providing false information on precursor substances report or record: A person commits the offense of providing false information on a precursor substances report or record if the person knowingly provides false information in any chemical precursor record.

Possession of precursor substance with intent to manufacture controlled substance: A person commits the crime of possession of a precursor substance with intent to manufacture a controlled substance if the person possesses one or more precursor substances with the intent to

manufacture a controlled substance.

Unlawful possession of phosphorus: A person commits the crime of unlawful possession of phosphorus if the person knowingly possesses any amount of phosphorus.

Unlawful possession of anhydrous ammonia: A person commits the crime of unlawful possession of anhydrous ammonia if the person knowingly possesses anhydrous ammonia in a container that is not approved by the United States Department of Transportation.

Unlawful possession of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine; unlawful distribution of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine: A person is in violation of this statute if the person knowingly possesses more than nine grams of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine, the salts, isomers or salts of isomers of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine or a combination of any of these substances.

Unlawful possession of iodine in its elemental form; recording transfers: A person commits the crime of unlawful possession of iodine in its elemental form if the person knowingly possesses more than two ounces of iodine in its elemental form.

Unlawful possession of iodine matrix; recording transfers: A person commits the crime of unlawful possession of an iodine matrix if the person knowingly possesses an iodine matrix.

Enforcement:

HIDTA Task Forces

The Oregon HIDTA Initiatives have currently identified and targeted 62 Methamphetamine Drug Trafficking Organizations operating in Oregon. These cases are in various stages of investigation with some disrupted and some dismantled.

During the first half of 2005, Oregon HIDTA task forces have seized 7 kilograms of powdered methamphetamine and 40 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine.

For the past six years, the Oregon HIDTA has had one initiative designated exclusively for the targeting of methamphetamine trafficking drug organizations. All HIDTA initiatives, as well as all law enforcement drug units in the state, spend the majority of their efforts on methamphetamine manufacturing, trafficking, or abuse cases.

Investigators have discovered that the Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations are clearly diversifying into poly-drug operations which may traffic in methamphetamine, precursor chemicals, marijuana, cocaine, and heroin concurrently.

Training:

During 2004 and 2005, the Oregon HIDTA Training Initiative, in conjunction with the Oregon HIDTA Intelligence Support Center (ISC), provided over 5,660 hours of training specifically

aimed at methamphetamine related issues including interdiction, methamphetamine lab safety, chemical diversion, and methamphetamine production methods.

In addition, over 1,100 officers statewide have been training on the importance of intelligence sharing, and methamphetamine lab documentation.

Other Solutions for Consideration:

- First and foremost, illegal immigration enforcement and border access needs to be addressed at the federal level. This is by far the greatest threat to homeland security and safety from drug terrorism as well as political terrorism. The response to this issue involves numerous components such as tightening and standardizing the enforcement resources as well as the identification controls and requirements for obtaining work permits, credit cards, social security cards, and driver's licenses across the country.

Identity theft has become a major crime in Oregon and a regional task force has been established. Currently, a case is being prosecuted in Washington County on one of the largest fraudulent schemes for obtaining Oregon drivers licenses in the United States. Over 70,000 fraudulent Oregon drivers licenses were issued. People were flying in from other states to obtain a fraudulent Oregon drivers license. The potential threat and impact of this case regarding political terrorism and drug trafficking is clear.

Enforcement of immigration laws are not standardized across the country. In Oregon, this represents a huge communication and cooperation barrier between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies working to insure homeland security and conduct drug investigations. For example, state and local law enforcement officers in Oregon cannot inquire about or investigate the immigration status of anyone by state law. Further, they cannot take enforcement action against an illegal immigrant nor can they use any state or local resources to assist any federal agency with immigration enforcement due to this same state law. Most of the drug trafficking that occurs in Oregon is done by Mexican drug trafficking groups that utilize illegal immigrants to facilitate the business. (Refer to ORS 181.850 Enforcement of federal immigration laws. (1) No law enforcement agency of the State of Oregon or of any political subdivision of the state shall use agency moneys, equipment or personnel for the purpose of detecting or apprehending persons whose only violation of law is that they are persons of foreign citizenship present in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a law enforcement agency may exchange information with the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services and the United States Bureau of Customs and Border Protection in order to:

(a) Verify the immigration status of a person if the person is arrested for any criminal offense; or

(b) Request criminal investigation information with reference to persons named in records of the United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services or the United States Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a law enforcement agency may arrest any person who:

(a) Is charged by the United States with a criminal violation of federal immigration laws under Title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act or 18 U.S.C. 1015, 1422 to 1429 or 1505; and

(b) Is subject to arrest for the crime pursuant to a warrant of arrest issued by a federal magistrate.

(4) For purposes of subsection (1) of this section, the Bureau of Labor and Industries is not a law enforcement agency.

(5) As used in this section, “warrant of arrest” has the meaning given that term in ORS 131.005. [1987 c.467 §1; 2003 c.571 §1]

- International controls and sanctions on irresponsible sales and distribution of precursor chemicals to include making ephedrine and pseudoephedrine a Schedule V drug which would keep these products behind the counter nationwide. The proposed Methamphetamine Epidemic Elimination Action is a necessary step to respond to the meth threat across our country.
- Increased controls, inspections, audits, and sanctions on financial money remitter businesses that are moving large amounts of drug money, in small structured amounts, from the United States to Mexico and other countries.
- Mandatory prison sentences of 20 years for manufacturing methamphetamine. Mandatory sentences may not result in reducing the availability of methamphetamine but they will, and have, resulted in a reduction of crime and the protection of our families and neighborhoods from these chronic and career drug predators. The purpose of mandatory sentences is to protect the community from those offenders and send a message to other offenders that manufacturing and distributing meth is seriously not acceptable in our country, state, or community.
- Mandatory prison sentences for smuggling or attempting to distribute methamphetamine or precursor chemicals.
- Mandated sanctions and treatment for those convicted of distributing and or using methamphetamine during the commission of any crime in a similar fashion as those sanctions that have led to a reduced level of driving under the influence of alcohol.
- Expanded investigations of drug distribution via the internet. The internet is, without a doubt, being used to circumvent traditional law investigative efforts against drug traffickers. As Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has stated, “...cybercrime is a new frontier that demands law enforcement attention now and the years to come.”
- Seek and obtain federal drug trafficking indictments on major drug cartel kingpins and put other countries on notice that we will pursue these subjects in the same manner and with the same resources as we do with traditional terrorists. We need to back this commitment up with appropriate action when called for.

- Require immediate sharing of criminal investigative information between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies based upon a need to know and a right to know regardless of the secrecy classification. The sharing of information between law enforcement agencies is not acceptable.

Conclusion

My final remarks are meant to try and bring some perspective to our nation's drug problems as they relate to the issue of "Homeland Security". In my opinion, the issues, problems, and solutions are intimately intertwined and inter-connected. We all, properly, call the overt terrorist acts of 9-11 horrendous. The shock and images will remain with us for ever. The mobilization and response of our country to mitigate the threat from political terrorism has been massive.

It may not be as obvious as 9-11 or politically correct for me to suggest that the illegal drug problems facing our country are as great as the threat to "Homeland Security" as from political terrorism but that is exactly what I wish to say. Since the 1980's there have been major, significant, daily, individual, guerrilla terrorist attacks against our country by organized criminal drug distribution groups from both internal predators and foreign countries.

Be assured, I do not wish to diminish the threat from 9-11 type terrorism and the pain it has caused our country; however, I do wish to state that this country has suffered far more pain and loss of life and human potential as well as damage to our economy and infra-structure from the guerrilla drug terrorism being waged quietly in our cities and neighborhoods by drug trafficking predators that I believe are major threats to our families, children, homes, and communities.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) data, in just 34 metro areas of various sizes in the U.S. during 2002, 10,087 people died from drug related deaths not including alcohol. This does not include all the damage and deaths resulting from crime and accidents caused by those abusing drugs. This does not include all the neglected and impacted children who will never be the same because of those who abuse drugs.

During my 38 years of law enforcement experience and having the opportunity to observe drug distribution, use, and abuse, I have concluded that many people, in this country and other countries, are making tremendous amounts of money by providing easy access to very dangerous, destructive, and addictive chemicals (both legal and illegal) that feed, and yet deceive, our natural human inclination to pursue what is pleasurable and avoid anything painful. The consequences of this easy access to drugs include:

- Tremendous social and economic costs to our families, neighborhoods, communities, and the entire national and local government infrastructure.
- Physical and mental disabilities and often death, either directly or indirectly as a result of drug abuse.
- Extremely debilitating addictions that ruin lives, steal hopes, dreams and human potential, ruin families and relationships, and place huge burdens on the social services

and behavior control systems of a community that provide for adequate neighborhood livability and safety, including our schools.

Communities are no longer safe and live in fear when local and national government services and controls become overburdened, overwhelmed, and ineffective due to the volume of calls for help, increased crime, increased homelessness, mental health issues, child neglect and abuse, and bizarre episodes of violence become everyday headlines. When our government safety nets no longer protect us, people begin a process of determining how they can protect themselves. An example of this is the recent attempts by Arizona ranchers to protect their property from the illegal immigrants pouring across the border from Mexico.

A Robert Wood Johnson Foundation study in February 2001 concluded that substance abuse is the nation's number one health problem with the cumulative related costs (crime, illness, deaths, medical, and other conditions) being \$109.9 billion in just 1995 for drug abuse alone (not including alcohol and smoking).

A leading Oregon treatment professional has likened the drug abuse problem to a "cancer on the planet". Unlike the struggle to deal with the problem of medical cancer; however, there are narco-terrorists who are planting the seeds of this drug cancer to make money and/or damage political adversaries.

The national response to 9-11 must link together with other federal, state, and local specialized investigation units that address organized crime such as drugs, gangs, identity theft, fraud, internet crime, etc. The information from these investigations must be coordinated with the national response to illegal immigration and illegal drug trafficking. The issues and threats are, without any doubt, commingled and therefore, so are the solutions.